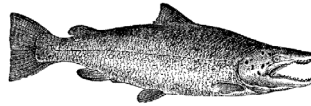




sacramento river
conservation area
forum
a voice for all interests



OPEN
FORUM
where ideas flow

Summer, 2006

Jim Nielsen's Senate Bill 1086

Former State Senator James W. Nielsen was the author of Senate Bill 1086. Currently retired from legislature, Jim is still the silent voice behind the SRCAF.

"The 1986 legislation was not an easy birth. The legislative travails were arduous and, even contentious," said Jim. "I think 1086 has been positive, and its concept has been wildly employed in other venues." His hard work continues to pay off.



Jim Nielsen

SB 1086 was intended to create a management plan for the Sacramento River and its tributaries by bringing diverse interests together in a structured, enduring forum. The inclusion of landowners, and local governments along with private/public interests and state and national authorities was the goal and is the reason for the successes of this landmark legislation.

The plan would protect, restore and enhance both fisheries

and riparian habitat. The guiding principles include the rights of landowners, ecosystem management, local concerns, flood management, bank protection, voluntary participation, information and education and particularly cooperation. The foundation for all restoration work is rooted in the fact that riparian habitat is closely linked to the river ecosystem and human activities including agriculture. The SRCAF was formed to carry out this plan.

Jim spent 12 years in the state Senate. He served seven more as Chairman of the Board of Prison Terms. His interests remain varied: ranching, Chairman of the Yolo County redistricting advisory committee, community projects, founder of the CA Alliance to Protect Private Property Rights, as a member of Governor Schwarzenegger's transition team and as a columnist for the Woodland Daily Democrat for more than 30 years. Last year the Future Farmers of America made Jim an Honorary American Farmer.

Jim currently resides in Yolo County with his wife Marilyn, who is Deputy Director of the CA Arts Council, and their three sons.

Good Neighbor Policy approved as white paper

The Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum (SRCAF) board meeting and annual BBQ was held at Llano Seco Ranch, May 25th, in Butte County.

The main topic on the agenda was the Good Neighbor Policy (GNP), which has been a source of interest for farmers and other landowners, Farm Bureaus, and many others in the seven county Conservation Area from Keswick Dam to Verona. The Conservation Area is that land along the Sacramento River within the 100 year flood plain, or between project levees. The SRCAF is pleased to announce the progress of the GNP to date.

The draft GNP was slated for adoption, however for consensus, the board accepted a recommendation by the Colusa County members that the policy be adopted as a White Paper, or working document. Although the document has changed over time, the original principles remain the same, "to promote communication and understanding among neighbors."

The Landowner Assurances Committee worked on the original document until 2004. The GNP Committee created earlier this year, has continued the task. This committee includes volunteer landowner and public interest representatives of the SRCAF board



Banky Curtis, DFG, reads a resolution for Diana Jacobs during the May Board meeting/BBQ at Llano Seco Ranch.

who have worked diligently to come up with a policy that addresses concerns voiced by landowners and agencies alike.

Brendon Flynn, GNP Committee Chair said, "The communication is clear, to have a solid policy in place on these issues." The draft was sent out for public review and comment in mid-April.

The first section of the five section document, concerning communication and review of projects, was adopted in 2003. Although the SRCAF does not acquire land or restore habitat, this project review section has led to better communication between adjoining landowners and those who do restoration and land acquisition.

(continued page 3 GNP)

Technical Advisory Committee

May: Dean Kwasny, Associate Wildlife Biologist, CA Dept. of Fish and Game, discussed the CA Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) proposal, an effort to reverse the decline of special status species in the Central Valley through the enhancement and management of habitat on private lands.

Drumheller Slough (RM 164)—USFWS, in partnership with River Partners, has gone through NEPA compliance and secured funding for the Drumheller Slough/Princeton Ferry Project. Funding is through WCB and CVPIA.



Ajay Singh
TAC Chairman

M & T Ranch (RM 192)—Kelly Moroney, USFWS, gave an update about the April 24/25 workshop where alternatives to protect the water supply while allowing river processes were discussed.

La Barranta Unit (RM 137-139)—River Partners and USFWS worked with Tehama County and determined that removal of the levee will reduce flood impacts downstream. Kelly also announced a grand opening event for a new walking trail at the Rio Vista Unit on South Avenue.

Big Chico Creek (RM 193)—Woody Elliott, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, reported all permits have been satisfied for putting in the gravel parking lot and slab for the boat ramp. Installation is expected by the end of summer.

Del Rio (RM 175)—Dan Efseaff, River Partners, reported on the notice in the Federal Register for a Safe Harbor Agreement on the Del Rio Property.

Greg Golet, TNC, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Project Tracker #114, updating the Sacramento River Riparian Monitoring and Assessment Program.

June: *Wilson Landing (RM 203-205L)* (Glenn County) — River Partners will be working with DFG to remove non-native plants and restore habitat on higher ground where natural recruitment has not occurred. It was determined that this project met the principles and guidelines of the SRCAF handbook.

Jelly's Ferry Habitat Restoration (RM 266-267) (Tehama County) — CSU Chico, River Partners, and BLM will collaborate on a restoration project for 201 acres of BLM land near the Jelly's Ferry Bridge that serves as one of the main entrances to the Bend Area ACEC. This property may be set up as a CSU Chico research site where monitoring will be continued. It was determined that this project meets the principles and guidelines of the SRCAF handbook.

For TAC meeting minutes visit www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov.



Vance Russell (2nd from left), Audubon, provided a tour for the TAC in May. Numerous sites in Yolo County were visited.

Audubon Provides Tour and More

by Vance Russell

The SRCAF TAC visited several Audubon California Landowner Stewardship Program restoration sites during a visit on May 2. The group first toured restoration sites at the Farm on Putah Creek a farm and nature center designed to connect the public to farming and the environment through demonstration projects, workshops, field days and tours. From the restoration perspective, there is a hedgerow, tailwater return pond and a mile long stretch of riparian restoration at Putah Creek that act as demonstration projects from small to medium scale for private land habitat restoration.

Bobcat Ranch, a 6,800 acre working ranch mostly comprising oak woodlands was the next stop during the tour. Audubon has worked with the landowner during the past three years to create conservation plans and restore large areas of native perennial grassland, riparian and ephemeral wetland habitat. The project is twinned with the adjoining Blue Oak ranch and it is the project partner's intent to connect conservation actions from the top to the bottom of the watershed. The ranch size is allowing Audubon to determine methods of restoration at much larger scales than previously attempted on private working ranches in the region and is an exciting opportunity to measure our success at a landscape scale.

The last stop on the tour was to Oakdale Ranch, owned continuously by the Stephen's family since 1850—the second oldest family run farm in the state. Together with the Stephen's family, Audubon has restored a ½ mile reach of the south fork Willow Slough with plans to restore the remaining ½ mile reach in the future. The restoration consisted of moving levees back from their current position to create a floodplain and subsequent re-vegetation. Upstream landowners have become interested in the project which originally began as a wildlife habitat restoration project, but includes important flood control aspects due to the larger conveyance capacity of the channel. In addition, the slough now has fewer maintenance issues due to erosion and weed control. Audubon intends to work with landowners in the entire watershed throughout the life of this project, so that hydrological and not just habitat connectivity can be restored.



Water
Wise:

Q. Which produces more humidity, an acre of corn or a lake?

A. An acre of corn contributes more to humidity than a lake of the same size.

CSP Public Input

by Gregg Werner

Research and planning projects that address landowner questions are moving forward with the help of many local residents. Thirty people attended a public input meeting on recreation planning on May 11 and a second meeting is planned for late July or early August in Colusa. Recreation planners are preparing a plan for public access in the area and a new master plan for expansion of the Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area.

Hydraulic modeling is also providing important information regarding the existing capacity of the floodway, as well as the effects of potential wildlife habitat restoration projects. The Pest and Regulatory Effects study includes agricultural experts and local farmers in determining how habitat restoration may affect neighboring farm lands and identifying ways to limit such impacts. Finally, the Fiscal and Economic Effects Analysis is determining just how proposed new public ownership and conversion of farmland to wildlife habitat will affect local government and the local economy. Local officials and economic development interests are providing information and they will review the product of the economist's work. The results of each of these projects will be shared with the public online at the SRCAF website, at local libraries and in public meetings.

For further information contact SRCAF Manager, Burt Bundy at 530-528-7411 or the TNC Project Manager, Gregg Werner at 530-897-6370 X 216.

GNP (continued from page 1)

Sections two through four, regarding regulatory assurances, mitigation and conflict resolution are supported by the board. Lynnel Pollock, Public Interest Representative, Yolo County, said, "Much progress has been made on this policy. We are pleased to hear these discussions, and can progress only by moving forward."

The section for further development now is the last section, regarding a task force to evaluate the desirability and administrative feasibility of a "Good Neighbor Fund". The GNP Committee, and others who have expressed interest in assisting the committee, will increase efforts to finalize and adopt an acceptable policy for SRCAF in the near future.

John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust said, "This is a work in progress and will continue to be so over time. Part of being a good neighbor is acting in good faith."

The 19,000 acre Llano Seco Ranch successfully incorporates farming, ranching and habitat conservation. The ranch has been family owned for over 100 years.

For a full copy of the draft GNP policy, go to www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov or for more information contact Burt Bundy, SRCAF Manager, 528-7411.



Landowners met to discuss information and provide priorities for recreation planning at the public meeting in Colusa. A second public meeting will be held in July or August.

Thanks for the Fish

Diana Jacobs, Science Advisor Deputy Director for the CA Department of Fish and Game (DFG), is retiring. Diana was honored at the SRCAF board meeting and annual BBQ with presentations by Banky Curtis, DFG Regional Manager and Burt Bundy, Manager SRCAF. Diana most recently served as an Ex-Officio board member and has been an active participant since the inception of SRCAF.

Diana and her husband Rick love to fish and have provided the fish served at the annual SRCAF BBQ for many years. Diana has always been a champion of fish and is frequently a guest speaker on approaches and analyses from aquatic biodiversity to salmonid habitat. Diana's last advice to the SRCAF board was, "Don't forget the fish."

Thank you Diana for all your hard work. We will miss you! Sandy Morey will replace Diana on the SRCAF board.



l to r: Denny Bungarz, Glenn County Public Interest representative; Maureen "Lady Bug" Doherty, State Reclamation Board; Diana Jacobs, DFG; and Jim McKevitt, SRCAF Secretary/Treasurer and Resources Agency representative enjoy a laugh together at the Llano Seco Ranch meeting.

The SRCAF 2006 Board of Directors

- **Brendon Flynn**, *Tehama County*
- **Ron Warner**, *Tehama County*
- **Denny Bungarz**, *Glenn County*
- **Ben Carter**, *Colusa County*
- **Don Anderson**, *Glenn County*
- **Jane Dolan**, *Butte County*
- **Dan Gover**, *Shasta County*
- **Shirley Lewis**, *Butte County*
- **Dan Silva**, *Sutter County*
- **Lynnell Pollock**, *Yolo County*
- **Gary Evans**, *Colusa County*

Ex-Officio Members:

Basia Trout, *Bureau of Reclamation*

Catrina Martin, *U.S. F&WS*

Brandon Muncy, *Corps of Engineers*

Diana Jacobs, *Department of Fish & Game*

Maureen Doherty, *The Reclamation Board*

Dwight Russell, *Department of Water Resources*

Burt Bundy, *Manager*

(530) 528-7411 bundy@water.ca.gov

Ellen Gentry, *Administrative Assistant*

Beverley Anderson-Abbs, *Resource Conservationist*

Glenn Hawes ~ *Chair, Shasta County*
Russell Young ~ *Vice Chair, Sutter County*
Jim McKeivitt ~ *Sec./Treas., Resources Agency*
Marc Faye ~ *Past Chair, Yolo County*

Calendar of Events

TAC meeting

July 11, 9:30a.m. to noon
Willows City Hall

SRCAF board meeting

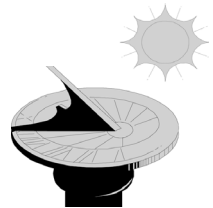
July 20, SRCAF board meeting
Monday Afternoon Club, Willows
September 14, SRCAF board meeting
Monday Afternoon Club, Willows

Colusa Subreach Advisory Workgroup meeting

September 11, 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.
Colusa Industrial Properties, Colusa

Hamilton City 100 Year Celebration-Levee Festival

July 9 at noon
Hamilton City Park



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